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Maine Construction Wage Rates 1994

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Labor Standards

Ruth A. Ladd

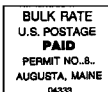
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BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS
Research and Statistics Division

Maine Construction Wage Rates 1994

Prepared by: Ruth Ladd, Statistician II

The Maine Construction Wage Survey is conducted annually under the Prevailing Wage Rate on Construction Projects Law. The main purpose of the survey is to collect hourly wage data. The data is used for setting the following year's minimum rates of pay on State-funded construction projects of \$10,000.00 or more.

The 1994 survey initially included 2,249 construction firms, an increase of 2.0 percent from 1993. Data from 648 respondents was used to produce the 1995 determination wage rates and this publication. There were 1,209 unused reports and an additional 392 reports that were not returned. Of the unused reports, 1,143 were from companies that had fewer than five construction trades workers, which by State law cannot be used. Sixty-six reports were from companies no longer operating. The data presented here is based on the wages of 10,746 workers (10.1 percent more than in 1993). This represents 47.8 percent of the 22,464 employees in the Construction Industry Division reported to the Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research in September 1994.

The industry-wide average hourly wage for 1994 was \$10.27, which is a 0.4 percent decrease from the 1993 average of \$10.31. Within Construction there was an increase in wage rates in one major group and a decrease in wage rates in the other two groups. The largest change occurred in Building Construction which increased 6.8 percent to \$10.14. Highway & Heavy Construction decreased 5.2 percent to \$9.57. Special Trades Contractors decreased 0.9 percent to \$10.61.

Average Hourly Wage Rates
By Major Industry Group, 1990-1994

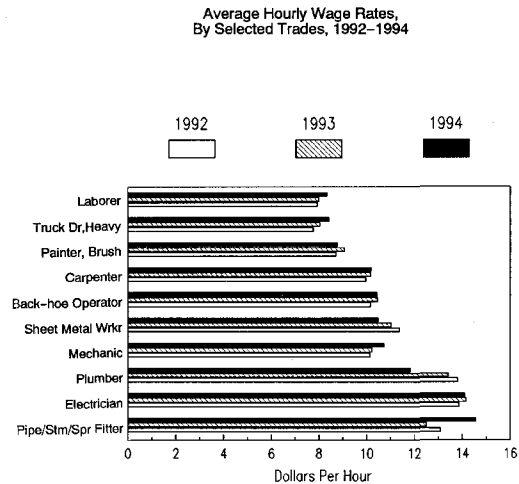
	Average Hourly Wage				
	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990
Construction Industry	\$10.27	\$10.31	\$10.15	\$10.18	\$10.11
Building Construction	10.14	9.49	9.73	9.71	10.04
Highway & Heavy Construction	9.57	10.09	9.70	9.21	9.26
Special Trades Construction	10.61	10.71	10.58	10.85	10.62

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Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1994

	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Building Construction (SIC 15)					
Bricklayer	21	\$7.00	\$15.75	\$15.75	\$13.42
Carpenter	550	5.00	10.00	25.00	10.14
Cement Mason/Finisher	27	6.00	10.00	14.50	10.27
Electrician (Licensed)	14	8.85	13.75	15.75	13.17
Ironworker, Structural	29	7.00	14.50	15.00	12.17
Laborer, Helper	204	4.50	8.00	15.95	8.54
Millwright	10	8.00	15.00	15.95	13.70
Painter, Brush	15	6.50	9.50	12.75	9.62
Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitter	40	14.50	15.00	15.95	14.91
Sheet Metal Worker	12	6.65	8.03	12.00	8.35
Highway & Heavy Construction (SIC 16)					
Asphalt Raker	23	6.00	8.75	12.00	8.91
Back-hoe Operator	68	7.50	10.45	15.50	10.83
Bulldozer Operator	29	7.53	9.75	15.00	10.12
Carpenter	90	7.90	10.50	16.00	10.74
Cement Mason/Finisher	13	8.50	12.00	17.58	12.17
Crane Operator	26	9.70	12.61	15.50	12.67
Crusher Plant Operator	12	5.50	9.35	14.50	9.62
Flagger	14	5.00	5.75	7.85	5.89
Grader/Scraper Operator	17	8.20	11.00	15.00	11.13
Hot Top Plant Operator	12	6.75	10.60	12.10	9.78
Laborer, Helper	333	4.25	7.50	15.97	7.93
Loader Operator, Front-End	64	6.21	9.30	15.00	9.70
Mechanic	58	6.50	11.20	15.00	10.91
Paver, Bituminous	26	5.50	9.58	13.45	9.70
Roller Operator	38	5.97	9.20	12.57	8.97
Truck Driver, Light	37	5.00	8.90	10.82	8.25
Truck Driver, Heavy	182	5.50	8.00	15.36	8.35
Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17)					
Asbestos Removal Worker	50	7.50	9.25	14.50	9.54
Back-hoe Operator	87	6.00	10.00	16.00	10.12
Boilermaker	55	13.00	18.48	22.27	18.60
Bricklayer	75	8.00	13.65	17.48	13.40
Bulldozer Operator	51	7.50	9.25	15.50	9.83
Carpenter	126	5.00	9.75	16.50	9.93
Cement Mason/Finisher	35	5.50	9.55	13.00	9.01
Crane Operator	17	11.00	13.00	19.49	15.13
Dry-wall Applicator	71	8.00	12.00	22.00	12.67
Dry-wall Taper & Finisher	25	8.00	12.00	15.00	12.15

The following graph illustrates the average wage for ten construction trades with the highest concentration of workers. Wages for five of these trades decreased while the other five trades increased in 1994.



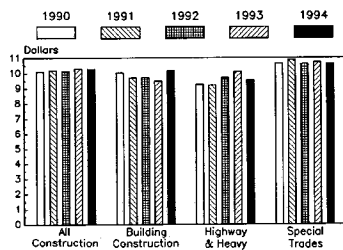
Technical Notes

Construction wage rates shown in this publication should not be confused with rates issued with any determination under the Minimum Wage Rate on Construction Projects Law. There are three major differences between this data and the determined rates. First, the industry groups differ significantly. For this publication, the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system Major Industry Groups are used. Prevailing wage determinations, on the other hand, cross SIC groups. Second, as mandated by MRSA Title 26, Chapter 15 of the Maine Labor Laws, rates are not set for any trade reported by less than 3 employers or with one employer reporting 50% or more of the employees for that trade. Third, median rates are used to set prevailing wages while average wages are used for the charts and graphs in this publication.

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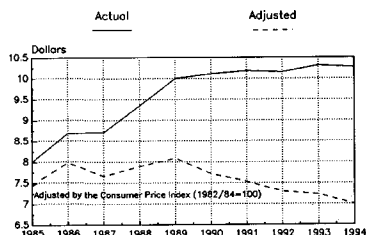
The following graph uses the data from the table on page one to illustrate changes in construction wages. Although there have been some slight changes, there have been no significant changes in construction wages over the past five years.

Average Hourly Wage Rates,
By Major Industry Group, 1990-1994



The following graph compares the survey's average construction wage to the value of the dollar adjusted by the Consumer Price Index to reflect inflation. The average wage for Maine construction workers decreased by 0.4 percent in 1994. By comparison, the average Consumer Price Index rose by 3.0 percent from 1993. The value of the dollar for Maine construction workers has decreased each year since 1989. As a result, workers had a 2.6 percent decrease in buying power for 1994.

Average Hourly Wage Rates,
And Inflation (1984 Base),
All Construction, 1984-1994



Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1994
(continued)

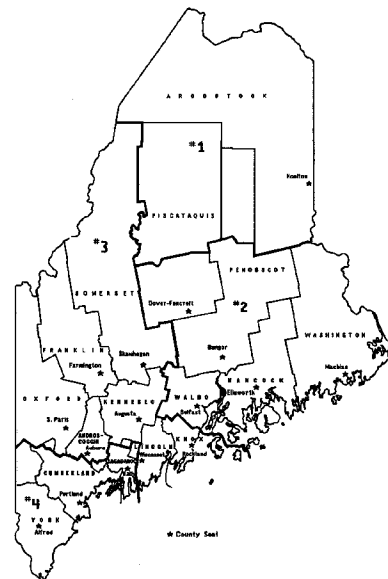
	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17) (continued)					
Electrician (Licensed)	196	\$7.75	\$13.25	\$21.45	\$14.14
Insulation Installer	58	5.00	8.23	13.13	8.46
Ironworker, Reinforcing	44	7.00	9.00	17.77	10.65
Laborer, Helper	664	4.25	8.00	15.00	8.45
Loader Operator, Front End	50	7.00	9.05	13.25	9.39
Mechanic	70	6.00	10.50	17.00	10.58
Mechanic, Refrigeration	29	9.00	14.50	21.50	14.30
Millwright	103	9.00	14.63	17.25	14.63
Oil Burner Repairer	35	7.25	11.00	17.00	11.17
Painter, Brush	123	6.00	8.50	13.30	8.67
Painter, Spray	31	6.00	9.00	15.00	8.61
Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitter	83	8.00	15.50	19.93	14.76
Pipelayer	15	7.45	9.00	10.50	9.03
Plumber	158	7.00	11.50	18.39	11.79
Rigger	17	8.50	14.00	15.00	13.44
Roller Operator	17	6.00	7.20	11.00	7.31
Roofing	108	5.50	8.98	13.75	9.11
Sheet Metal Worker	116	6.00	10.50	18.00	10.71
Sider	10	7.50	10.00	11.25	9.43
Truck Driver, Light	34	6.00	7.88	14.00	7.88
Truck Driver, Heavy	177	6.00	8.00	15.25	8.47

Trades in More Than One SIC

Asbestos Removal Worker	50	7.50	9.25	14.50	9.54
Asphalt Raker	28	6.00	8.75	12.00	8.89
Back-hoe Operator	164	6.00	10.20	16.00	10.43
Boilermaker	55	13.00	18.48	22.27	18.60
Bricklayer	97	7.00	14.00	17.48	13.36
Bulldozer Operator	86	7.50	9.38	15.50	9.90
Carpenter	768	5.00	10.00	25.00	10.18
Cement Mason/Finisher	75	5.50	10.00	17.58	10.00
Crane Operator	50	9.00	12.65	19.49	13.38
Crusher Plant Operator	17	5.50	9.50	14.50	9.66
Dry-wall Applicator	74	8.00	12.00	22.00	12.48
Dry-wall Taper and Finisher	26	8.00	12.00	15.00	12.00
Electrician (Licensed)	222	7.75	13.50	21.45	14.09
Flagger	14	5.00	5.75	7.85	5.89
Grader/Scraper Operator	27	7.00	10.50	15.00	10.69
Hot Top Plant Operator	12	6.75	10.60	12.10	9.78
Insulation Installer	64	5.00	7.85	13.13	8.23
Ironworker, Reinforcing	50	7.00	9.13	17.77	10.54
Ironworker, Structural	58	7.00	11.88	15.00	12.00

Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1994
(continued)

	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Trades in More Than One SIC (continued)					
Laborer, Helper	1,201	\$4.25	\$7.85	\$15.97	\$8.32
Line Erector	13	7.50	11.00	17.03	11.98
Loader Operator, Front End	116	6.21	9.28	15.00	9.60
Mechanic	134	6.00	10.88	17.00	10.72
Mechanic, Refrigeration	31	8.75	14.50	21.50	13.96
Millwright	125	8.00	14.63	21.65	14.53
Oil Burner Repairer	36	7.25	10.88	17.00	11.08
Painter, Brush	138	6.00	8.50	13.30	8.77
Painter, Spray	43	6.00	9.00	15.00	8.83
Paver, Bituminous	32	5.50	9.58	13.45	9.71
Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitter	181	8.00	14.50	19.93	14.56
Pipelayer	19	6.70	9.00	15.36	9.40
Plumber	165	7.00	11.50	18.50	11.82
Rigger	18	8.50	14.00	15.00	13.36
Roller Operator	55	5.97	8.15	12.57	8.46
Roofer	109	5.50	8.98	13.75	9.09
Sheet Metal Worker	129	6.00	10.00	18.00	10.48
Sider	15	7.50	10.00	15.00	9.41
Truck Driver, Light	77	5.00	8.00	14.00	8.13
Truck Driver, Heavy	362	5.50	8.00	15.36	8.41



- AREA 1: Aroostook County, Upper Penobscot County (above Millinocket), Upper Piscataquis County (above Bowdoin College Grant).
- AREA 2: Washington County, Hancock County, Waldo County, Lower Penobscot County (including Millinocket and Medway), Lower Piscataquis County (including Bowdoin College Grant).
- AREA 3: Knox County, Lincoln County (excluding Dresden), Kennebec County, Androscoggin County (excluding Durham), Somerset County, Franklin County, Oxford County (excluding Fryeburg, Denmark, Brownfield, Porter, Hiram), including the towns of Richmond, Harrison, and Otisfield.
- AREA 4: York County, Cumberland County (excluding Harrison and Otisfield), Sagadahoc County (excluding Richmond), including the towns of Dresden, Fryeburg, Denmark, Brownfield, Porter, Hiram, and Durham.

Notes

Average Wage: The average wage is calculated by multiplying individual rates for each occupation by the number of workers paid that rate, adding the results and dividing by the number of workers in that occupation.

Median Wage: Literally, the middle rate, that is, no more than half the workers in a trade earn less and no more than half the workers earn more than this amount.

Source of September 1994 employment data: Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research, Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment.

Determinations Issued For 1994
Area By Major Industry

	Building	Highway	Heavy & Bridge	Special *
Area 1	9	3	6	0
Area 2	39	15	7	2
Area 3	47	13	14	2
Area 4	32	8	10	0
Statewide	1	0	0	2

*A Special determination is issued when it is necessary to combine different types of construction.